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THE NATIONAL UNION LIST OF SERIALS

The Library of the New York Academy of Medicine has recently joined the ranks of libraries cooperating in the publication of a national union list of serials. The term serial, as applied to the holdings of the Library of the Academy, includes medical journals in all languages; transactions of medical and other scientific societies, local, national and foreign; reports of hospitals, clinics and social welfare institutions and organizations; and publications of colleges and universities in this country and abroad that have appeared or are appearing in periodical form.

When this work of listing and recording the holdings of the cooperating libraries is complete, the results will be put in printed form and distributed to the libraries as a "provisional list." This list will be used as a basis of exchange and as a "want" list among the cooperating libraries, which will thus be enabled to complete imperfect sets or to acquire new ones by purchase or exchange. Such changes and additions will be recorded in the "provisional list," which will then be returned to the publishers in charge of the work, the H. W. Wilson Company, of New York City, and a permanent list will then be printed and distributed for use in the various libraries.

This final list will be of great value, not only to the individual libraries as a bibliography of their periodical material, but to the whole field of medical, scientific and research work. For it will be, first, a bibliography in alphabetic form of all important

serial publications, both defunct and current, in the various countries of the world. Moreover, under each entry will be indicated just what sets, complete or otherwise, are to be found in the cooperating libraries of the United States and Canada. This means that a vast field of material in these libraries will be made available for use and consultation to readers and workers in the many different fields represented by the libraries, which are both general and special in scope.

The large and valuable collection of medical periodicals and other serial publications on related scientific subjects in the Library of the Academy of Medicine is now being recorded and entered in this union list. The result will be that its value and usefulness will be manifoldly increased and augmented by being made available to the whole field of medicine in America. This is the first time in history that a union list of serials has been compiled on a national basis, so the work is a vast and complex one; but the undertaking will more than justify all effort by its tremendous significance as a definite step toward the scientific organization and rendering available for practicable use of the vast but widely separated sources of scientific, technical and literary material in the libraries of North America.

REGULATIONS GOVERNING DONATIONS TO THE LIBRARY FUNDS,
ADOPTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE ACADEMY,
JANUARY 28, 1925

“Donations and bequests are solicited by The New York Academy of Medicine for the maintenance and expansion of the Library.

“A donation or bequest of \$5,000 or more will provide for a special library fund, the income of which may be used for the general purposes of the Library or restricted to the purchase of books and periodicals, as the donor or testator may indicate. When so restricted, a special bookplate will be used. A donation or bequest of less than \$5,000 but more than \$1,000 will provide for a named library fund, the income of which will be used for general library purposes or restricted for the purchase of books and periodicals, as desired by the donor or testator.